

House File 626 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 626

BY NIELSEN

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to certain plans filed by gas and electric
- 2 utilities, and including retroactive applicability
- 3 provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 476.6, subsection 15, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (a), Code 2019, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (a) Electric utilities required to be rate-regulated under
5 this chapter shall file five-year energy efficiency plans
6 and demand response plans with the board. Gas utilities
7 required to be rate-regulated under **this chapter** shall file
8 five-year energy efficiency plans with the board. An energy
9 efficiency plan and budget or a demand response plan and budget
10 shall include a range of energy efficiency or demand response
11 programs, tailored to the needs of all customer classes,
12 including residential, commercial, and industrial customers,
13 for energy efficiency opportunities. The plans shall
14 include programs for qualified low-income persons including a
15 cooperative program with any community action agency within the
16 utility's service area to implement countywide or communitywide
17 energy efficiency programs for qualified low-income persons.
18 Energy efficiency plans filed by rate-regulated gas and
19 electric utilities shall include weatherization assistance
20 programs for qualified low-income persons, which programs shall
21 be funded by the gas or electric utility in an amount no less
22 than the amount used to fund such programs pursuant to the
23 gas or electric utility's five-year energy efficiency plan in
24 effect as of July 1, 2018. Rate-regulated gas and electric
25 utilities shall utilize Iowa agencies and Iowa contractors to
26 the maximum extent cost-effective in their energy efficiency
27 plans or demand response plans filed with the board.

28 Sec. 2. Section 476.6, subsection 15, paragraph c,
29 subparagraph (2), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

30 (2) (a) Notwithstanding the goals developed pursuant
31 to paragraph "b", the board shall not require a gas utility
32 to adopt an energy efficiency plan that results in projected
33 cumulative average annual costs that exceed one and one-half
34 percent of the gas utility's expected annual Iowa retail rate
35 revenue from retail customers in the state, shall not require

1 an electric utility to adopt an energy efficiency plan that
 2 results in projected cumulative average annual costs that
 3 exceed two percent of the electric utility's expected annual
 4 Iowa retail rate revenue from retail customers in the state,
 5 and shall not require an electric utility to adopt a demand
 6 response plan that results in projected cumulative average
 7 annual costs that exceed two percent of the electric utility's
 8 expected annual Iowa retail rate revenue from retail customers
 9 in the state.

10 (b) For purposes of determining the one and one-half or two
 11 percent threshold amount, the board shall exclude all of the
 12 following from an a gas or electric utility's expected annual
 13 Iowa retail rate revenue the:

14 (i) The revenues expected from customers that have received
 15 exemptions from energy efficiency plans pursuant to paragraph
 16 "a".

17 (ii) The costs of providing weatherization assistance
 18 programs for qualified low-income persons, as required in
 19 paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (a).

20 (c) This subparagraph shall apply to energy efficiency
 21 plans and demand response plans that are effective on or after
 22 January 1, 2019.

23 Sec. 3. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This Act applies
 24 retroactively to January 1, 2019, for energy efficiency plans
 25 that are effective on or after January 1, 2019.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 Current law requires rate-regulated gas and electric
 30 utilities to file five-year energy efficiency plans with the
 31 Iowa utilities board. Current law prohibits the board from
 32 requiring a gas utility to adopt an energy efficiency plan
 33 that results in projected cumulative average annual costs that
 34 exceed 1.5 percent of the gas utility's expected annual Iowa
 35 retail rate revenue from Iowa retail customers, and an electric

1 utility to adopt an energy efficiency plan that results in
2 projected cumulative average annual costs that exceed 2 percent
3 of the electric utility's expected annual Iowa retail rate
4 revenue from Iowa retail customers.

5 This bill requires five-year energy efficiency plans
6 filed by gas and electric utilities to include weatherization
7 assistance programs for qualified low-income persons, which
8 shall be funded in an amount no less than the amount used to
9 fund such programs in the utility's five-year energy efficiency
10 plan in effect as of July 1, 2018.

11 The bill provides that for purposes of determining the 1.5 or
12 2 percent threshold cap regarding gas or electric utility plan
13 costs, the board shall exclude the utility's costs of providing
14 low-income weatherization assistance programs.

15 The bill applies retroactively to January 1, 2019, for
16 energy efficiency plans that are effective on or after that
17 date.